

## UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS WHO ARE ATTENDING CONVENTION



## EXCESS BAGGAGE RATE TOO HIGH

U. C. T. Convention Expected to Deal With That Question at Convention.

## WORD AS TO PARCELS POST

Delegates Attend Theatre Party, and Will Go Down James River To-Day.

Sweltering, yet ready for a fight or a frolic, the 600 visiting delegates to the sixteenth annual convention of the Grand Council, United Commercial Travelers, brushed over the opening exercises yesterday morning in the Jefferson Hotel auditorium and cleared the decks for the serious business which is to come. The two business sessions of yesterday, while dealing mostly with routine matters, served to indicate the trend of action to be taken before adjournment.

It was significant that both the president, in his annual address, and the secretary, in his made mention of the parcels post and its direct influence on the commercial traveler. Of further significance was the applause which greeted these unfavorable references. Wise heads say this convention is going on record against the proposed postal innovation, and the whole question will be threshed out to-mor-

row morning at the third business session.

Of equal importance in the eyes of the 15,000 men composing this division of the order is the present rate on excess baggage. It was common talk around the convention hall yesterday afternoon that this matter would be made subject for vigorous action, the delegates being unanimous in the opinion that excess baggage rates are exorbitant. There will be strenuous debate on the parcels post Saturday, but little argument in regard to the baggage proposition.

Some disagreement is certain over the parcels post, but conservatives are confident that the opponents of the measure far outnumber those in favor of it.

**Figure on Elections.** Already there is much quiet campaigning afoot for the election of grand officers, which is scheduled to take place Saturday morning. This talk is confined almost solely to the election of sentinel, this being the only office to be filled by open election by the delegates. There are dark horses a plenty, but the leading candidates seem to be Ernest T. Meeks, of Norfolk; L. L. Shaffer, of Cumberland; and W. W. Mansfield, of Washington. A good-spirited fight will be waged about these three men.

Last night everybody went to the Academy of Music for a theatre party, and business was forgotten, while the merry travelers and their wives applauded Miss LaVerne and her company in "The Greatest Thing in the World." The officers and counselors occupied the boxes and came in for generous attention from the delegates in the pit. Delegates from distant points arriving late in the afternoon dropped in to see the show, and the house was eventually filled to overflowing.

Streets leading to the Jefferson Hotel will be thronged to-day as the latest arrivals appear. Fully 1,000 more delegates are expected to reach the city to-day, and although these will

be too late for the Jamestown excursion, they will be in ample time for the serious business to-morrow. Old King Cole will rule the day when the visitors go aboard the steamer Pocomoke this morning at 8:30 o'clock, and tremendous preparations have been made for making the day memorable. The big party will return to the city in time to witness U. C. T. degree work by the Bluestone Council's Degree Team to-night in the Jefferson Hotel.

## Year's Work Reviewed.

After a morning session devoted to addresses of welcome and preliminaries, the delegates settled down to business in the afternoon. The chief points in the annual address of Grand Counselor Thornburgh against the parcels post, the passage of bills regulating hotel rates and accommodations, and the appointment of a representative to visit all the councils of the district in turn. His report showed the order to be in a flourishing condition.

A review of the insurance department of the order was made by Secretary Brown in his annual report, his figures showing that nearly \$50,000 had been disbursed by the order last year for indemnity benefits alone. According to his report, the organization is on the most satisfactory basis of its existence. The affairs of the order, he stated, were thoroughly satisfactory to State insurance commissioners and fully within the insurance statutes.

The reports of the grand treasurer, A. F. Chambers, and the grand auditor, E. J. Chambers, were read and referred to committees for review. Perfect satisfaction with the affairs of the secretary and the treasurer's office was expressed by the auditing committee. Radical suggestions regarding the behavior of subordinates were made by this committee.

The West Virginia delegation took possession of the floor with a motion that the name of the organization be changed so as to include specifically the

name of West Virginia. The motion asked that the present title, "The Order of United Commercial Travelers of America, Kentucky, the Virginias and Maryland," be changed to read, "The Order of United Commercial Travelers of America, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland." The determination took with the delegates, and the amendment was adopted and ordered printed for distribution.

## Committees Appointed.

The following committees were appointed by the grand counselors: State of the Order—N. D. Vincent, T. C. Abbott, J. T. Hinkle, J. R. Jones.

Resolutions—W. A. Slicer, R. M. Stephens, Fergus Bowman, James A. Conway.

Special Committee—F. E. Zook, R. L. Slade, W. D. T. Shepherd.

Charters and Dispensations—W. H. McLaughlin, O. L. Vail, J. D. Stacey, Millegan and Rex Dism-W. C. Leonard, C. E. Templeton, W. E. Jenkins, T. J. Prettymann.

Press—Arthur Levi, J. W. Hunt, J. G. Cramer.

Necrology—H. A. Lightner, O. W. Fields, C. W. Smith.

Credentials—L. H. Huff, S. B. Featherstone, T. T. Kibler.

**Get Royal Welcome.** The hotel auditorium was thronged yesterday morning when Senior Counselor Levy officially called to order the sixteenth annual convention of the United Commercial Travelers. Following a prayer by the Rev. W. C. James, D. D., Mayor D. C. Harrison presented the keys of the city to the visitors and wished them a hearty welcome. Governor Mann, speaking next, extended a greeting on behalf of the State, while President Carrington, of the Chamber of Commerce, offered the delegates the assurance of the business men of Richmond.

The Supreme Council were graciously presented by G. E. Barker, and the Rev. H. D. C. MacLachlan delivered a very humorous ten-minute talk to the traveling men.

Responses to the welcome on behalf of the visitors were made by Grand Counselor Thornburgh. The Chamber of Commerce had another opportunity to welcome the visitors when W. T. Dabney, the business manager of the chamber, offered a few closing remarks. The benediction was pronounced by Dr. E. N. Calhoun. Interposed between the addresses were musical selections by Kessell's Municipal Band, a solo by E. T. Meeks, of Norfolk, and a duet by Mrs. Jasper Howe and Miss Mitchell.

**G. Grosvenor Dave Resigns.** Washington, June 6.—G. Grosvenor Dave to-day resigned as managing director of the Southern Commercial Congress and was succeeded by Clarence J. Owens, secretary-treasurer, elected by the executive officers. Mr. Dave expects to devote his time in future to study of the history of national development as affected by commercial organizations.

## OBITUARY

**Miss Essie May Roberts.** [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] East Radford, Va., June 6.—Miss Essie May Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Roberts, of East Radford, died Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, after a long illness. Services were held at Grove Avenue Church on Thursday and interment was made in Central Cemetery.

**Mrs. Sarah R. Harney.** [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Elizabeth City, N. C., June 6.—Mrs. Sarah R. Harney passed away last night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Selby Harney, in West Main Street. Surviving her are three grandchildren. She was the widow of Captain A. Sutton Harney, well known in marine circles of this section of the State. The funeral services will be held at 10 o'clock Friday morning from the home.

**Mrs. William Beale.** [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Franklin, Va., June 6.—Mrs. William Beale, aged sixty-five years, died at her home last night, at 8 o'clock. She was Miss Grace Jones before her marriage. She is survived by four children—John Beale, of Franklin; William Beale, of Hanover; Mrs. Arthur Pettigrew, of South Richmond, and Mrs. Roger Jones, of Franklin.

## DEATHS

**BASS.** Died, at his residence, on Petersburg Turnpike, near South Richmond, June 5, at 2 P. M., L. A. BASS. In the sixtieth year of his age. He leaves a wife and two children to mourn their loss.

**Funeral at 4 o'clock THIS (Friday) AFTERNOON** from Decatur Street M. E. Church, and interment in Mount Cemetery.

**COX.** Died, Tuesday evening at 11 o'clock, at the residence of her son-in-law, E. A. Throckmorton, 501 North Thirty-second Street, MRS. JACQUELINE COX, in the eighty-fourth year of her age.

**Funeral** will take place from the residence THIS (Friday) AFTERNOON at 3 o'clock. Interment in Oakwood.

## IMMENSE POWER SHOULD BE CURBED

Manager of Clearing House Association Concedes Need of Judicial Regulation.

## MONEY TRUST PROBE STARTS

First Session of House Committee on Banking Held in New York.

New York, June 6.—The immense power wielded by the New York Clearing House Association over the banks of the country's financial centre and arbitrarily lodged in the hands of five men, should be placed under judicial regulation, it was conceded by William Sherr, manager of the association, on the witness stand to-day.

Mr. Sherr was the chief witness at the first hearing held by the House Committee on Banking and Currency, which is investigating the so-called money trust.

The committee came to New York to-day to take such testimony as its power will permit pending the passage of the amendment to the banking law in the Senate, under which the committee hopes to be able to enforce from the banks its demands for the information which it expects to make the basis of remedial legislation.

While to-day's inquiry was characterized by Chairman Pujo as "collateral" to the main scope of the inquiry, Samuel Untermyer, special counsel for the committee, developed through Mr. Sherr's testimony to the effect that the institution in New York was not established at the mercy of the "mere whim, determination or order" of the five men who compose the "New York Clearing House Committee."

Mr. Untermyer referred to the regulation of practically every financial institution in New York as "a mere whim, determination or order" of the five men who compose the "New York Clearing House Committee."

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lations of the association conferring this power as "monstrous," and also raised the question as to whether the association did not violate the interstate commerce laws in the banking operations of its members with out-of-town banks.

The clearing house committee, composed of Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City Bank, the largest in the country; James G. Cannon, president of the Fourth National Bank; Walter E. Frew, president of the Corn Exchange Bank; Richard Delafield, president of the National Park Bank; and Otto T. Bannard, president of the New York Trust Company, had full power over the admissions to membership, according to the testimony of the witness, and the power of suspension.

"Then it rests with these five men as to whether they can keep a competitor out of the association," inquired Mr. Untermyer. "Don't you think that is a monstrous regulation?"

"The average banker has a moral status to maintain," replied Mr. Sherr. "He realizes that he can make more money by walking straight than crooked."

"I have never known honorable men who are able to falsify the financial requirements for admission to be returned. If the committee took the narrow view of keeping out a competitor it would react against them. Merchants and business men, who are the banks' largest customers, would never stand for unjust discrimination."

"I am not speaking of motives," pursued the attorney, "but of the unbridled and unlicensed power of these men. Don't you think this power should be subject to judicial review and control?"

Mr. Sherr then expressed that the Clearing House Association was a voluntary institution, similar to a private club, and that no court would hold that a voluntary institution could be compelled to accept as a member any one who could not comply with its regulations.

"But you know that this great power exists. Should it not be judicially controlled?"

"I agree with you," finally conceded Mr. Sherr. "Where there is a wrong it should be corrected."

"And this mere whim, determination, or order, whatever you are to call it, to stop clearing for non-member banks. Don't you think that is too great a power without judicial review?"

The witness again gave an affirmative answer, but asserted that in the exercise of the power "it is not so bad as it looks," citing as a reason the instance where the committee's power was exercised to prevent an institution whose officers were "not of good character" from obtaining membership by buying out and merging with a clearing-house bank.

"Good character often depends upon which group of banks you belong to, doesn't it?" queried Mr. Untermyer. "Oh, I don't admit that," said the witness.

Mr. Untermyer raised the question of the violation of the interstate laws when he brought out from the witness that by taxing the collection of checks on out-of-town banks, the New York clearing-house institutions "levied on the country a tribute" of over \$18,000,000 annually.

This tax, which was the first imposed by the clearing house in 1899, amounts to one-quarter of 1 per cent, or one-tenth of 1 per cent, according to the territory from which the check originates, Mr. Sherr said, and any bank charging a less amount is subject, according to the rules, to expulsion after a second offense.

"Don't you realize that the collection of out-of-town checks in this manner is in restraint of trade?" asked Mr. Untermyer, after pointing out that it was impossible for the clearing house banks to compete with each other for a customer's account by offering, for example, to collect their checks for nothing.

Mr. Sherr admitted that the clearing house was an important factor in interstate commerce, but again pointed out that it was a purely voluntary organization and that a bank not caring to pay the tax imposed, he said, to cover the cost of collection, could withdraw. After Mr. Untermyer had read into the record evidence that the cost of collecting checks in Boston was only 7 cents on \$1,000, compared with the charge in New York of from \$1 to \$2.50 per \$1,000, he remarked:

"Banks have been obliged to close up because their clearing house privileges have been withdrawn, haven't they?"

"Yes," said Mr. Sherr. "Just a rumor that it is to be expelled will cause a run on the bank, won't it?"

"Well, then, the idea of a bank allowing itself to be expelled on account of the collection rate is inconceivable," commented the attorney.

"I think that if I were president of a bank and felt that I was being unjustly used, I could announce that fact and withdraw without any danger to my institution," said he witness. He admitted the imposition of the collection tax was not properly a function of a clearing house association.

## EFFORT TO START BRYAN STAMPEDE

Clamor Ends Only When Letter From Nebraskan Is Read.

## SAYS HE'S NOT CANDIDATE

Wilson Wins Minnesota Convention, With Its Twenty-Four Delegates.

Duluth, Minn., June 6.—Minnesota Democrats in State convention to-day voted to send a full delegation of twenty-four delegates to the Baltimore convention with instructions to vote for Woodrow Wilson. It was agreed, however, that whenever, in the opinion of two-thirds of the delegation, Wilson's nomination is impossible, the vote may be thrown to another candidate.

Victory came for the Wilson forces only after followers of Champ Clark and William J. Bryan had made an attempt to have the delegates either instructed for Bryan or not instructed at all. As a result of the attempt to stampede the convention for Bryan the hall was in an uproar for more than an hour. During all that time, however, the name of Clark was not mentioned, even by those who contended for an uninstructed delegation.

Several delegates who are said to favor Clark are on the list, but they are under instructions to vote for Wilson. The Clark manager, H. S. Williams, said after the convention that he would carry his fight to the national convention at Baltimore. The Wilson men selected Fred B. Lynch, of St. Paul, for national committeeman. It became evident early in the contest that the opposition to Wilson was hopelessly in the minority.

John M. Freeman, a Wilson man, was named temporary chairman without opposition. M. C. Tift, of Minneapolis, was made permanent chairman in the same manner. Opponents of Wilson made an effort to send the delegates to Baltimore instructed for Bryan or uninstructed. Several laudatory speeches were made in favor of the Nebraskaan, and his name was loudly cheered. The clamor for Bryan ended when Guy Thomas, of Minneapolis, read a letter from Mr. Bryan saying he was not a candidate for President.

Freeman made an address urging that as the majority of Minnesota voters had named Wilson as their choice the convention should stand by him.

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Other contributors of special note are; Mrs. C. N. Williamson, with an installment of "If the Sea Could Tell," and "Women of the Great Outdoors."

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